



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802  
340-774-0001**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER AND PROCLAMATION  
BY THE GOVERNOR  
OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
DECLARING A STATE OF HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE  
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
DUE TO COVID-19 – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

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**WHEREAS**, Title 23, Section 1005(a), Virgin Islands Code, vests in the Governor the responsibility for meeting the dangers to the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands and its people presented by emergencies or major disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Revised Organic Act of 1954 (as amended) Section 11 confers upon the Governor all executive powers, more particularly general supervision and control of all departments, bureaus, agencies, and other instrumentalities of the executive branch; and

**WHEREAS**, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents itself with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

**WHEREAS**, in late 2019, a new and significant outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in China and has spread to a significant number of countries around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 30, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed that the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) spread between two people in the United States of America (US), representing the first instance of person-to-person spread with this new virus ; and that further community transference and contamination has occurred thereafter around the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC currently recommends community preparedness and everyday prevention measures be taken by all individuals and families in the United States, including voluntary home isolation when individuals are sick with respiratory symptoms, covering coughs

surfaces and objects to increase community resilience and readiness for responding to an outbreak;  
and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19, the illness caused by the new coronavirus, has sickened more than 121,000 people and killed over 4,300 people around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic as it has spread to more than 100 countries around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States has declared a National Disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, Two individuals in the Territory of the Virgin Islands have been preemptively isolated and tested for COVID-19, and the CDC currently recommends mitigation measures in communities with potential COVID-19 cases, including staying at home when sick, keeping away from others who are sick and staying at home when a household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms or if instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in the U.S. Virgin Islands remain safe and secure; and

**WHEREAS**, Title 23, Section 1005(d), Virgin Islands Code, vests in the Governor the authority to declare a State of Emergency when it is determined that an emergency or major disaster has occurred or is imminent; and

**WHEREAS**, The Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, in order to protect the lives and property of the residents of the Territory may activate all necessary and possible territorial resources under the executive branch, other agencies, instrumentalities, and partners to complete the preparation necessary to protect life and property;

**WHEREAS**, It is necessary to impose guidelines and restrictions to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Territory from the potentially dangerous effects of the COVID-19 – Coronavirus Pandemic;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority granted to me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and afore-cited sections of the Virgin Islands Code, do hereby **DECLARE** as follows:

1. A State of Health Emergency throughout the United States Virgin Islands effective immediately, and such State of Health Emergency shall continue in effect until the Governor finds that the threat or danger has passed or that the response and recovery has progressed to the point that a state of emergency no longer exists, unless earlier

lifted or extended by Order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands consistent with Title 23, Section 1005(d) of the Virgin Islands Code;

2. In accordance with Title 23, Section 1005 of the Virgin Islands Code, I designate the Commissioner of the Department of Health as the Incident Commander, the territorial official designated by the Governor to direct the territorial response pursuant to the authority granted to her/him by the Governor in order to execute his directives for enforcement of this order. I also designate the Virgin Islands Department of Health as the lead agency to coordinate emergency response activities in conjunction with the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency. The Commissioner of the Department of Health, as Incident Commander, and the Director of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency shall advise the Executive Office of the Governor on the implementation of these emergency response activities
3. In accordance with Title 3, Section 418(5) & (6) and Title 23, Section 1033(b) of the Virgin Islands Code, I direct the Incident Commander to take all actions necessary to protect the public health.
4. I direct the Incident Commander to follow the guidelines established by the CDC in establishing protocols to control the spread of COVID-19 and to educate the public on prevention.
5. The V.I. Department of Health, pursuant to its authority in Title 23, Section 1033(b) and Title 19, Section 2 of the Virgin Islands Code, will ensure that individuals meeting the CDC's definition of a Person Under Investigation (PUI) are isolated or quarantined for a period of 14 days or until the person tests negative for COVID-19. Such PUI shall remain under active monitoring by the V.I. Department of Health to include the following:
  - a. Risk Assessment within 24 hours of learning an individual meets the criteria of a PUI.
  - b. Twice daily temperature check.
6. I direct the Commissioner of the VI Department of Health, as Incident Commander, pursuant to Title 19, Section 2 of the Virgin Islands Code and the rules and regulations promulgated under Title 3, Section 419 of the Virgin Islands Code, to make its own determinations as to the quarantine, isolation, and other necessary public health interventions of any and all residents or visitors of any part of or entirety of the Territory of the Virgin Islands of the United States.
7. The Commissioner of the V.I. Department of Health, as Incident Commander, pursuant to Title 19, Chapters 15-20 of the Virgin Islands Code, shall exercise her authority over the regulation of all health care facilities, nursing homes, and schools in the Territory and retains that control during this emergency.

8. All Territorial Peace Officers are hereby deputized as law enforcement officers of the United States Virgin Islands specifically to perform public safety functions as required by the Governor or the Incident Commander before, during, and after health emergency throughout the Territory, and each shall report immediately to the Commissioner of Police and/or the Incident Commander, his or her designated representative on each island or to the VI Territorial Emergency Management Agency representative on each island for the purpose of executing the Governor's orders and executive decisions; and
9. The disaster preparation, response and recovery aspects of the territorial and inter-jurisdictional emergency and major disaster plans applicable to the area in question, shall be activated, and the deployment and use of any forces to which the plan or plans apply and the use or distribution of any supplies, equipment, materials, and facilities assembled, stockpiled, or arranged to be made available shall also be authorized pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, Section 1005(e) and any other provision of law relating to emergencies or major disasters.
10. As Commander in Chief of the Virgin Islands National Guard (VING), pursuant to the authority granted to me in Title 23, Chapter 19, of the Virgin Islands Code and National Guard Regulation 500-3/Air National Guard Instruction 10-2503, I hereby order and activate the 23<sup>rd</sup> Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team (23<sup>rd</sup> CST-WMD) and the VING Strategic Initiatives and Plans Branch Chief (G3) of the Virgin Islands National Guard to support the Territory and the Incident Commander, specifically with the plans and preparations for the response within the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands to the COVID-19 – Coronavirus Pandemic. The VING Strategic Initiatives & Plans Branch Chief (G3) and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team (23<sup>rd</sup> CST-WMD) will be required to assist the Incident Commander with any necessary aspect of the response plan and enforcement of this order.
11. I direct, authorize, and order the Adjutant General of the Virgin Islands to mobilize such members of the unit as necessary until such time as he is ordered by me, verbally and/or in writing to stand down from such mobilization which shall be on the termination date of this Order as set forth below. The Adjutant General is directed pursuant to Title 23, Section 1520, Virgin Islands Code and NGR 500-3/ANGI 10-2503 to take whatever actions he considers necessary for the enforcement of this order.
12. In accordance with the provisions of Title 23, Section 1005(g) of the Virgin Islands Code, the Commissioner of the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs is hereby authorized and directed to issue a Price Freeze and Restricted Sale Order to protect the consumers of this Territory.
13. I hereby direct the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services to provide any necessary support to the Incident Commander in furtherance of this Order, to include but not be limited to any areas affecting elderly housing, nursing homes, and other vulnerable populations.

14. I hereby direct all agencies under the direction of the Governor to fully cooperate with the V.I. Department of Health, and any representative thereof in furtherance of this Order. All agencies not under the direction of the Governor are requested to provide such assistance as is required. All local resources available are designated as being available for the enforcement of this Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D., 2020.



  
Albert Bryan, Jr.  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Tregenza A. Roach  
Lt. Governor